992-93 and 1993-94 in West Bengal ith names of places;

(b) the number of cases in which nction of dealership was accorded s per the recommendation of the tate Government;

(c) whether there are proposals ing pending for issue of LPG dealer- ip during the current year in West engal; and

(d) if so, the names of the places r such proposed dealerships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF HE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM ND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN ATISH SHARMA): (a) Letters of tent for 15 LPG distributorships ere issued during 1992-93 and 1993- in West Bengal.

(b) LPG distributorships are not nctioned on the recommendations of e State Government, but on the sis of selection by Oil Selection ard.

(c) and (d) 35 proposals are pen- ig for setting up of LPG distribu- rships at different locations in West ngal.

Increase in the Import Bills of Petroleum Products

71. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will Minister of PETROLEUM AND TURAL GAS be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that the ude oil, and petroleum product im- rt bill is estimated to touch $17.5 lion by the terminal year of the hth Plan; if so, what are the rea- ns therefor;

b) whether it is a fact that by the n of the century the import bill ll double to $14 bilion if so what the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the alarming situation mentioned in (a) and (b) above has arisen due to the bad performance and policies of the department of petroleum related to exploration of crude production and progress of on-ging projects, which are to be completed by the end of Eighth Plan; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The value of net import was 5.587 and 5.07 billion dollars in 1992-93 and 1993-94 respectively and it is estimated at 5.74 billion dollars in the current year. As regards the foreign exchangle requirement by the end of VIII Plan and turn of the century, it is extremely difficult to predict the impact of various factors like prices of crude oil and products in the international market, materialisation of indigenous crude production plan, increase in demand of petroleum products which affect the import Bil

(c) and (d) Government have initiated a number of steps to increase indigenous production of crude oil to the level of 44.45 million tonnes per year by the end of terminal year of the Eighth Plan. The projects for development of new fields and additional development of existing fields are being closely monitored both by ONGC and the Government.

Steps to meet the demand of Oil & Gas

172. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of oil and gas produced in the country, annually particularly in the State of Gujarat;